

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17 has been amended by requiring the addition of 0.01 to 25% cosurfactant based on the amount of surfactant added to the emulsion. Support for this amendment exists, *inter alia*, at page 22, lines 16-18.

Claims 17-29 and 34 are currently pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 17-22, 24, 26-29 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. patent application publication no. 2005/0090611 (“Huffer”), claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Huffer in view of U.S. patent 6,677,293 (“Allgaier”), and claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Huffer in view of U.S. patent application publication no. 2004/0171759 (“Lange”). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim 17 has been amended to require the addition of 0.01 to 25% cosurfactant based on the amount of surfactant added to the emulsion. Thus, the present invention requires the addition of significantly more surfactant to the emulsion than cosurfactant (at least 4 times as much). The applied art neither teaches nor suggests this invention.

Huffer neither teaches nor suggests the invention methods. In fact, Huffer teaches away from the invention methods. Par. [0135] of Huffer teaches that surfactants, if added, are present in an amount of no more than 5% where total emulsifier content is no more than 10%. This paragraph goes on to state that preferably 1 to 2.5% surfactant is present. Thus, Huffer would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to use more cosurfactant than surfactant – in fact, Huffer would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to use significantly more cosurfactant than surfactant given that up to 10% of the composition can be cosurfactant + surfactant, and Huffer states that 1 to 2.5% surfactant is preferred. In other words, Huffer would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to add 4 to 10 times more cosurfactant than surfactant. In stark

contrast, the invention methods require the exact opposite and require adding at least 4 times more surfactant.

This wide discrepancy of amounts/ratios of cosurfactant and surfactant is significant. Huffer cannot teach or suggest the invention methods of stabilizing an emulsion or increasing the efficiency of a surfactant in an emulsion, particularly a microemulsion, using the minimal amounts of cosurfactant required by the present claims. Stated another way, Huffer would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the required amphiphilic polymer in combination with a surfactant in the required amounts to stabilize an emulsion and/or to increase surfactant efficiency in an emulsion – Huffer neither teaches, suggests, nor recognizes that the required amphiphilic polymers could be added to emulsions in the required amounts/ratios, particularly microemulsions, with any resulting benefits.

The significance of Huffer's failures is further demonstrated in the examples of the present application. The examples demonstrate that the claimed amphiphilic polymers significantly increase the efficiency of surfactants in emulsions (by demonstrating the shifting of the X point when using the claimed compounds). Again, nothing in Huffer teaches or suggests the claimed compounds having significantly improved stabilizing or surfactant efficiency increasing properties when added in the required amounts/ratios, nor would Huffer lead one of ordinary skill in the art in this direction.

The secondary references, Allgaier and Lange, cannot compensate for Huffer's fatal deficiencies. These secondary references are cited merely for disclosure relating to functionalization of polyisobutenes or specific block copolymers, and do not teach or suggest the missing information in Huffer.

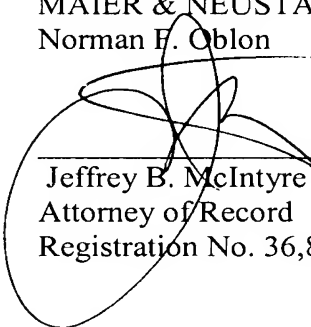
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

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Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Jeffrey B. McIntyre
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 36,867

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)